

Dept. of  
Planning & Development

MAR - 8 2005

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Plng  
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due  
3/22/05

March 8, 2005

Diane Sugimura, Director  
Seattle Department of Planning and Development  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: **Environmentally Critical Areas Update** requires the inclusion of the Seattle fault earthquake and a tsunami inundation to the waterfront.

Dear Ms. Sugimura and DPD Staff:

Our purpose in writing this letter is to request that the **Environmentally Critical Areas Update** should include in its **Geologic Hazard Areas** the following maps and documents concerning an earthquake on the Seattle fault and the tsunamis it can generate, along with developing regulations:

**1. Lifelines and earthquake hazards in the greater Seattle area (map)**

USGS hazard map which states that "Preliminary geophysical measurements show crustal contractions across the Seattle fault, clear evidence that strain is slowly building toward the next earthquake."

**2. Tsunami Hazard Map of the Elliott Bay Area, Seattle, Washington: Modeled Tsunami Inundation from a Seattle Fault Earthquake.** The map states, "There also is substantial evidence that earthquakes on the Seattle fault can generate tsunamis." The tsunami hazard map indicates Inundation in parts of the Seattle waterfront 6 to 16 feet.

Both of these Hazard maps clearly define the Seattle Fault and a history of earthquakes.

We call attention to the following facts:

**Geologic Hazards are defined in the AWW DEIS Statement, March 2004 and are stamped with the 'City of Seattle' logo. Pertinent paragraphs read as follows:**

**4.4 Geologic Hazards** Geologically hazardous areas are defined as areas that--because of their susceptibility..earthquakes or other geologic events--are not suited for development consistent with public health and safety concerns. Washington State's Growth Management Act (Chapter 36. 70A RCW) requires all cities and counties to identify geologically hazards areas within their jurisdiction and formulate development regulations for their protection" page 25

Diane Sugimura, Director  
March 8, 2005  
Page 2

**4.4.3 Fault Rupture** "The Seattle Fault is believed to be a thrust or reverse fault...the width of the rupture zone at the ground surface is approximately 2 to 4 miles wide, north to south. ...Geologic evidence gathered over the last 10 years suggest that surface rupture of this fault zone occurred as recently as 1,100 years ago with a as much as 22 feet of vertical displacement." Page26

**4.4.6 Seiches and Tsunamis** "These finding indicated that a magnitude 7.3 to 7.6 earthquake caused from rupture of the Seattle Fault may result in a wave that would inundate much of the waterfront in the excess of 6 feet." page 28

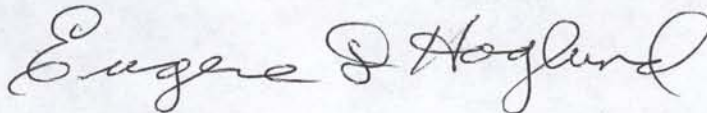
#### Summary

Based on the information the city and state have from USGS maps of the Seattle fault, City Hall seems to be circumventing the Laws of the State of Washington (RCW 36. 70A.) I believe that by ignoring the Seattle Fault, City Hall can continue to aid development unimpeded in known hazard areas. This raises the concern of public endangerment for profit.

It appears that the city of Seattle is not in compliance with the RCW Growth Management laws, when addressing specific Earthquake and Tsunami Geologic Hazards within their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely



Eugene Hoglund

Enclosures: (1) Tsunami Hazard Map of the Elliott Bay Area, Seattle, Washington NOAA

Web Site: [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/geology/pubs/pubs\\_ol.htm#hazards](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/geology/pubs/pubs_ol.htm#hazards) ofr-2003-14

(2) Lifelines and earthquake hazards in the greater Seattle area USGS OPEN-FILE REPORT 99-387

(3) AWW Draft Environmental Impact Statement Appendix T page 25 to 28 & 4-1

(4) Scenario for a Magnitude 6.7 Earthquake on the Seattle Fault